



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

December 2012

The Municipal EcoLink, is a monthly e-bulletin designed to inform you of the latest environmental ideas, trends, grants, rules and more from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES). We respectfully request that the following is electronically distributed or otherwise made available to your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well. Read *Municipal EcoLink* at:
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/newsletters/ecolink/index.htm>

Medical Sharp Labels Available for Town Transfer Stations

Needle stick injuries pose a serious threat to solid waste operators because of the blood borne diseases they can carry. An accidental stick from a needle in the trash can cost thousands of dollars in medical testing, even when tests are negative. DES has one roll of 100 labels for each municipal transfer station to help identify containers that contain medical sharps. Some were distributed at the LGC conference, and others have been handed off to the solid waste operators at training. We will eventually hand deliver to all town transfer stations, but feel free to request one if you or someone from your town is at DES for any reason. Just let us know you are coming. Call or email Sharon Yergeau at 271-2906 or Sharon.yergeau@des.nh.gov. Printable labels are also available at
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swmb/css/documents/sharps-labels.pdf>.

Air Pollution Forecasts and Alerts - sign up today!

Residential heating season, including heating with woodstoves, can cause local air pollution events in your area. EnviroFlash is a personalized delivery system that provides air pollution forecasts and alerts via email, text, phone app, or social media. This is especially helpful for people who are sensitive to air pollution. EnviroFlash alerts people to unhealthy air quality conditions allowing them to make safe decisions about their day's activities.

Sign up today at www.enviroflash.info <<http://www.enviroflash.info/>> . Enviroflash is a free service of DES and the EPA. For information on air pollution forecasts and current levels in New Hampshire, visit www.airquality.nh.gov or call (800) 935-SMOG.

NH Independent Study of Energy Policy

New Hampshire's Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board, in its Final Report and recommendations on the Independent Energy Study, released December 1, 2012, is calling for a comprehensive energy policy for the state that highlights the critical role of energy efficiency and local renewable resources in the state's energy future. The Report details the most important steps that state can and should take to implement policies and enhance programs that will contribute to economic development, increased resilience and security of energy supply and a cleaner environment. A copy of the Final Report, as well as additional background material, is available on the EESE Board website at
<http://www.puc.nh.gov/eeese.htm>.

Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance Practices for Dirt and Gravel Roads

The U.S. Forest Service has a new guide for *Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance Practices for Dirt and Gravel Roads*. Controlling erosion from dirt roads is particularly important as it ends up in our streams and rivers and eventually our lakes and ponds. The document is available for download at
<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/pubs/pdf/11771802.pdf>.

EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities webinars

EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities (CRWU) initiative is beginning a new series of webinars on its CRWU tools and resources for the water sector, which includes drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities. These 45 to 60 minute webinars will assist the water sector in developing a better understanding of climate change, managing impacts and creating adaptation strategies. The series begins on Wednesday, January 23 and will take place approximately twice a month through the summer of 2013. To register, view the "Training Calendar" tab at www.epa.gov/climatereadyutilities.

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